

Application No. 10/803,859
Amendment dated May 17, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 8, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has amended the pending claims. Claim 10 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. All the remaining claims have been amended to indicate that the invention is a combination of a ground rod adapted to be driven by a wrench or power rotated device, and includes a handle with the head of the ground rod configured to mate with the handle to allow the ground rod to be driven or removed by hand. These claims are basically comparable to claim 7 previously submitted.

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being obvious, because it would be obvious to modify the disclosure of Farmer to add a handle. Applicant would maintain that this is not the case. The driver disclosed in the Farmer reference would not permit a handle to be attached to the ground rod. This is designed for location in a sea bed. One would never manually insert such a device.

It should be noted further that ground rods have been in existence for, perhaps, over one hundred years. No one has disclosed a power driven ground rod. The device in the Farmer '330 patent is an anode for galvanic corrosion. One could maintain that this would be a ground rod, but it certainly is not designed to attach to an electrical system. This device is simply designed to prevent metal corrosion in sea water. To modify this device for manual insertion is simply unobvious, particularly in light of the fact that ground rods have been in existence for such a long period of time and no one has invented a power driven ground rod. Therefore, modifying a ground rod to combine a power driven ground rod with a manually driven ground rod is unobvious.

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In light of the above, applicant would request reconsideration of the pending claims, which are now limited to the combination, and allowance of same.

Respectfully submitted,

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